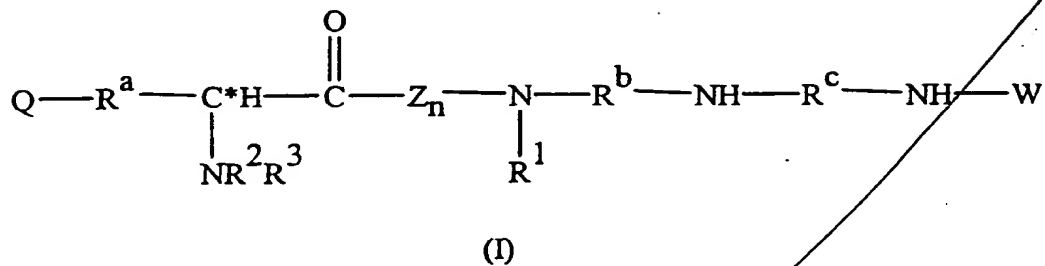


## CLAIMS

1. A substantially pure compound having the general formula (I)



wherein:

5 Q represents an amidino group, a cyano group or a group of formula XYN-, where

X and Y are the same or different, and each may represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, or a simple hetero-atom containing group or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group;

10  $\text{R}^a$  represents a straight or branched chain alkylene or alkenylene group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and each optionally being substituted by from 1 to 4 alkyl groups each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

15  $\text{R}^b$  and  $\text{R}^c$  each represents an alkylene or alkenylene group having 3 or 4 carbon atoms in a straight chain, each being optionally substituted by 1 or 2 alkyl groups each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the total number of carbon atoms in said straight chains of  $\text{R}^b$  and  $\text{R}^c$  being 7;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are the same as or different from each other and each represents a hydrogen atom, or a group of formula R, RCO-, ROCO-, or RNHCO-, where

20 R represents a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said alkyl or aryl group being optionally substituted by one or more of the substituents  $\alpha$ , defined below;

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the chiral carbon atom indicated by the asterisk is in the L configuration;

Z is an aromatic amino acid residue;

n is 0 or 1;

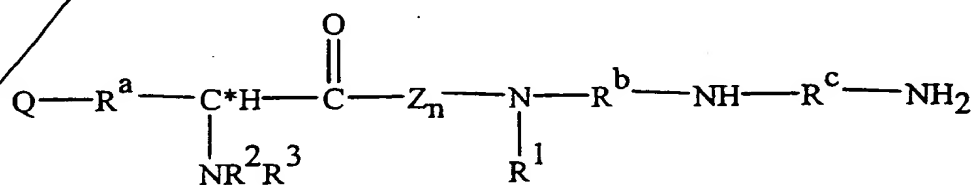
5  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said alkyl or aryl group being optionally substituted by one or more of the substituents  $\alpha$ , defined below;

W represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or aryl group; and

10 substituents  $\alpha$  are selected from: halogen atoms, amino groups, alkylamino groups, dialkylamino groups, cyano groups, hydroxy groups, alkyl groups (except when the substituted group is alkyl), aryl groups, carbamoyl groups, alkylcarbamoyl groups, dialkylcarbamoyl groups and carboxy groups and esters thereof;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Compounds according to Claim 1, having the formula (Ia):

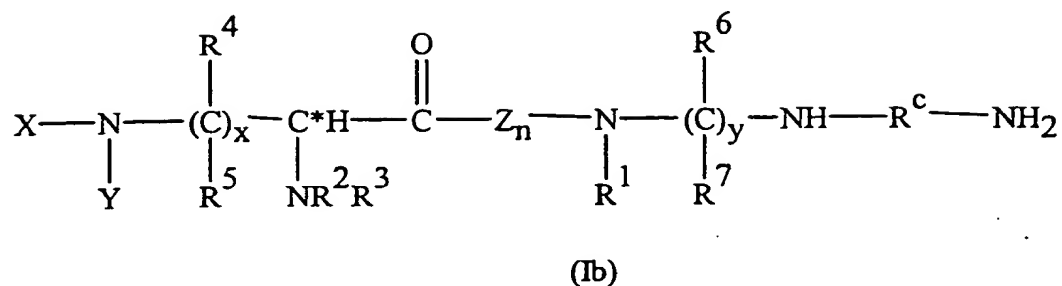


(Ia)

15 wherein Q,  $R^a$ ,  $R^b$ ,  $R^c$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , Z, n, and  $R^1$  are as in Claim 1.

3. Compounds according to Claim 1, having the formula (Ib):

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wherein:

X, Y, Z, n and R<sup>1</sup> are as defined in Claim 1;

x is an integer from 1 to 5;

5 y is 3 or 4

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group; and

the chiral carbon atom indicated by the asterisk is in the L configuration.

10 4. Compounds according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~, in which Z represents an aromatic amino acid residue in the L-configuration.

5. Non-toxic compounds of formula (I) as defined in Claim 1.

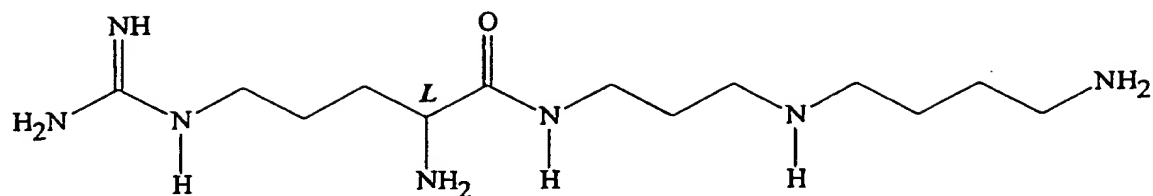
6. ~~Non-toxic compounds of formula (Ia) as defined in Claim 2.~~

7. Non-toxic compounds of formula (Ib) as defined in Claim 3.

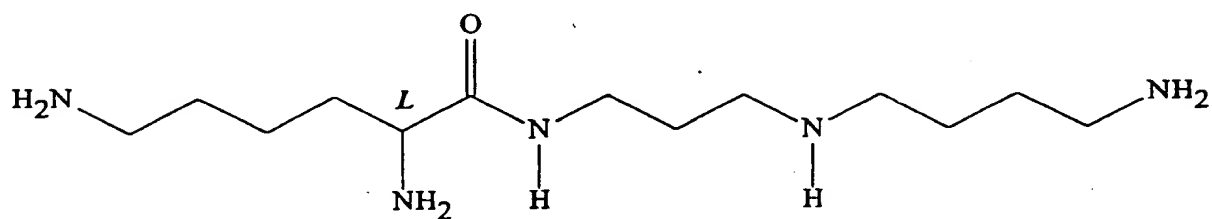
8. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:

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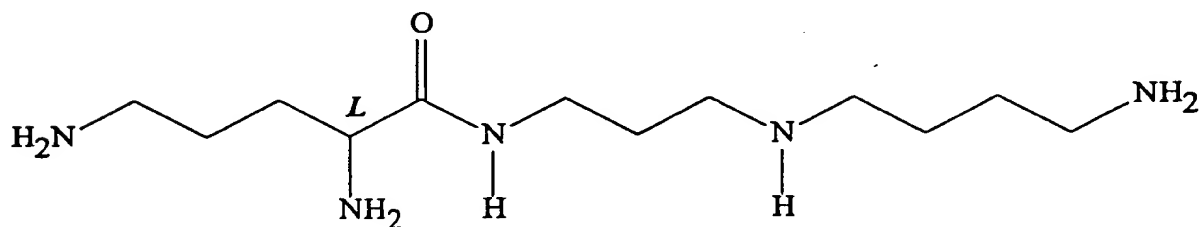
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9. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:

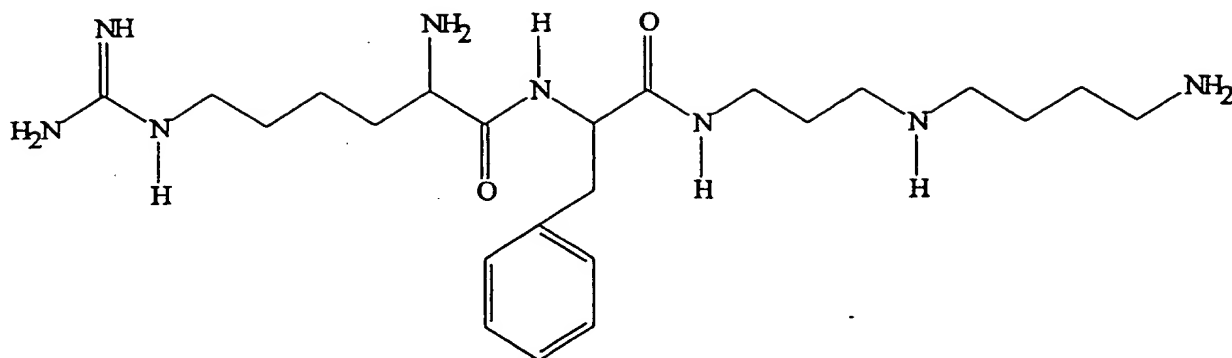


5 10. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:

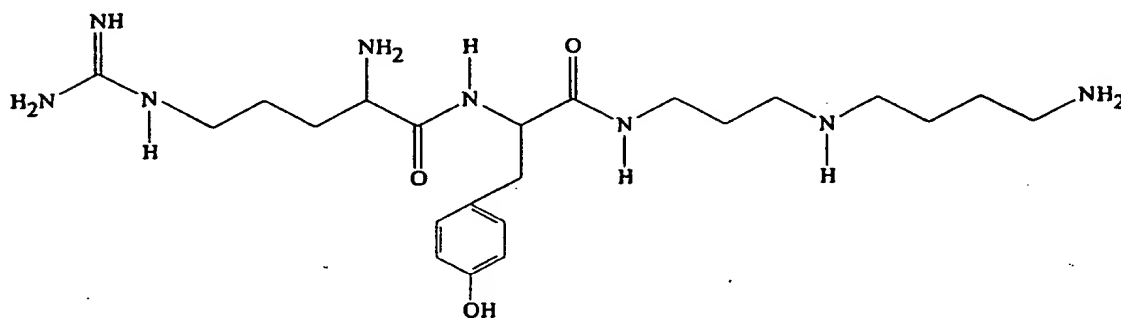


11. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:

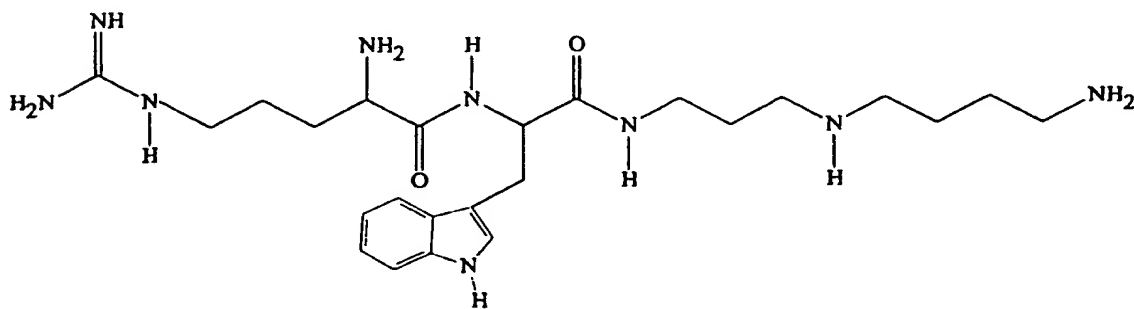
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12. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:



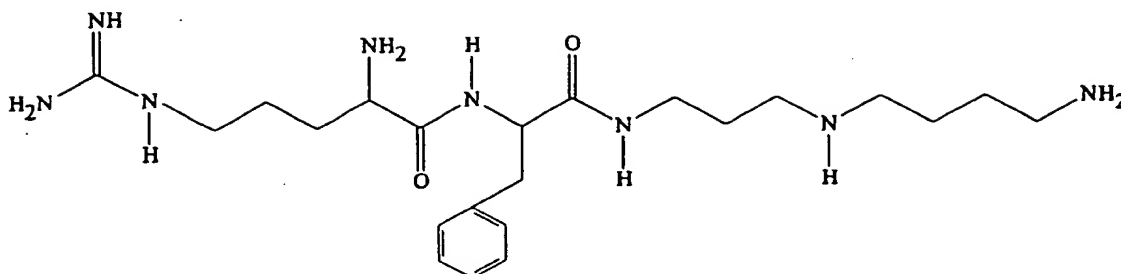
13. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:



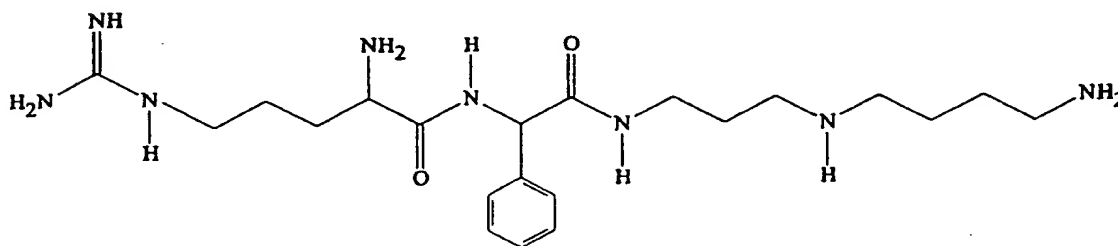
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14. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:

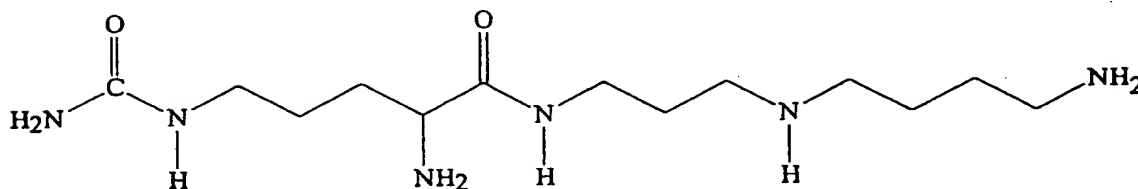
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15. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:



16. A compound according to Claim 1 which is:



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a 17. The use of compound according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ for the manufacture of a medicament for treating a mammal to protect said mammal from the neuronal damage caused by an ischaemic event.

18. A method of treating a mammal to protect said mammal from the neuronal damage caused by an ischaemic event by administering to said mammal before, after or during

10 an ischaemic event an effective amount of a non-toxic compound <sup>according to</sup> ~~as claimed in any one~~ of Claims 1 to 16.

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